

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1351

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS BF

SUBJ: SPINY LOBSTER

REF: NASSAU 1349

1. I AM BREATHING JUST A LITTLE EASIER AFTER YESTERDAY'S MEETING BETWEEN U. S. DEL AND ADDERLEY. BASED ON DEBRIEFING, IT SOUNDS TO ME VERY MUCH AS IF ADDERLEY "GOT THE WORD" FROM PRIMIN. THIS WAS CERTAINLY WALLACE'S IMPRESSION AS WELL.

2. THAT DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE OUT OF THE WOODS. AS NASSAU 1349 STATES, THE NEGOTIATIONS STILL COULD FAIL. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, IS THAT IF THEY NOW FAIL IT IS BECAUSE WE AND THE BAHAMIANS CANNOT AGREE ON PARTICULARS RATHER THAN BECAUSE THE TWO OF US ARE AT DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE POLES IN OUR APPROACHES.

3. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, DELEGATION'S ASSESSMENT IN NASSAU 1349 WHILE CONSISTENT IN GENERAL WITH MY VIEWS IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN MY OWN ON A FEW PARTICULARS. I DO NOT AGREE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GCOB HAD NO REAL INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT FROM THE OUTSET. RATHER, AS WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING

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FOR SOME TIME, THERE WERE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS WITHIN GCOB WHO

OPPOSED AGREEMENT, BUT WERE OFFSET BY OTHERS WHO WERE PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN A U. S. PROPOSAL DESIGNED FROM GCOB POINT OF VIEW TO ASSIST U. S. IN "MEETING ITS PROBLEMS." GCOB PERCEPTION IN OUR INITIAL PRESENTATION OF OUR LONGER RANGE FOCUS AND OF NOTION OF COMMONALITY WHERE BAHAMIANS PERCEIVE NONE TO EXIST IS WHAT IN LARGE MEASURE ACCOUNTED FOR CRISIS OF LAST WEEKEND. THUS, I THINK IT ALSO IS INCORRECT TO STATE THAT GCOB INTENDED TO TORPEDO THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE. IN FACT, GCOB HAD BEEN VERY FORTHRIGHT AND EXPLICIT ON THE MATTER TO THE POINT WHERE, IT WILL BE RECALLED, WE HAD TO SATISFY THEM ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS ASPECT OF THEIR LAW BEFORE WE COULD GET AGREEMENT TO A DATE.

4. AND WHILE I QUITE AGREE WITH DELEGATION'S CONCLUSION THAT IMPLICATIONS OF NON-AGREEMENT GO WELL BEYOND FISHERIES AND ARE LIKELY TO AFFECT BASES, THE IMPACT IS CERTAIN TO BE EVEN BROADER STILL.

5. HOPEFULLY WE WILL NOT HAVE TO CONFRONT THAT DOUR PROSPECT IF MONDAY'S SESSION WAS A HARBINGER OF THE FUTURE. THE WILLINGNESS OF BOTH SIDES TO BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT A SHORTER TERM ARRANGEMENT AND ONE OF MORE LIMITED SCOPE PROVIDES SOME REASON TO BE HOPEFUL. MOST IMPORTANT WAS IMPLICATION BY ADDERLEY THAT RECIPROCITY OF THE SORT THAT I SUGGESTED TO PRIMIN AS CONSISTENT WITH BOTH NATIONS' INTERESTS WAS SOMETHING GCOB MAY NOW BE WILLING TO CONSIDER.

6. IF U. S. DELEGATION IS GIVEN LATITUDE FOR CONTINUING TO EXPLORE DIRECTIONS BEGUN MONDAY AND WITHIN MODALITIES AS FURTHER REQUESTED IN NASSAU 1349, WE MIGHT YET GET AN ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT. ONE WORRISOME MATTER, OF COURSE, IS HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS IS OR IS NOT POSSIBLE SINCE THE FLORIDA FISHERMEN ARE BOUND TO BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT. STILL I BELIEVE THAT U. S. DELEGATION IS MOVING ABOUT AS FAST AS GCOB CAN BEAR AT THIS POINT AND NOTHING USEFUL WOULD BE GAINED FROM ATTEMPTING TO ACCELERATE THE PACE. I WOULD THINK THAT WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, PERHAPS BY END OF THIS WEEK OR BEGINNING OF NEXT, WE WILL HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA AS TO WHETHER THERE IS A BASIS FOR A DEAL.

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